

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP  
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008**

**The monthly workshop of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI, on Monday, April 14, 2008. The Chairperson, William A. Estrella, Jr, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM.**

**Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Marjorie J. McBride, Paul Silva, William M. O'Dell, Paul E. Brule, Diana B. Campbell, David L. Dugan, Karen A. Lynch and John P. Saviano; and Edward P. Mara, Superintendent; and Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance**

**Absent: none**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited at the Bond Project Building Committee Meeting just prior to this meeting.**

**PRESENTATION ON MY TURN**

**MY TURN Regional Director, Corrinne Hill explained that MY TURN,**

**founded in 1984 in Massachusetts, is a community-based, private, non-profit youth development agency dedicated to working with in-school and out-of-school youth, ages 14 to 21 years, who are at a crossroad in their lives. They operate in Massachusetts and in New Hampshire, and Mt. Hope is their first site in Rhode Island.**

**Colleen Powers, the MY TURN facilitator at Mt. Hope, said the school has been incredible at welcoming her. Their mission is “to help youth develop goals, skills and confidence needed to transition successfully into post-secondary education or training and the world of work.” Although here only since January, she sees changes in the 40 in-school and 2 out-of-school students they work with; the program had 110 referrals, which are made by guidance, teachers and administrators. Twenty-five of the students are from the general school population and 5 are marine trade specific who also work with Steve Eaton after school. Thirty of the students meet as a group (one 2-hour meeting each Thursday) and 10 students work with Ms. Powers individually. In this program the students are exposed to community service learning, from which leaders emerge, field trips out of their “comfort zone”, career preparation, including job applications and resume writing, employment seeking and employment retention skill building, and personal finance skills. They are planning a fund-raiser for KIVA and a cookbook fundraiser to support a college and job career fair. A five-week summer internship program specific to the marine trades industry, in partnership with IYRS, will be offered; students are paid to attend.**

**They are working on securing grants to provide more internships. They are also working on an entrepreneurship component. Ms. Powers feels their success at retaining students is due to the one-on-one attention they are given, which is so difficult for guidance counselors to provide because of the overwhelming number of students for which they are responsible. Students are followed for 12 months after they leave the program. The program is funded by the District (\$10,000), with the bulk from the Governor's Workforce Board of RI, and a portion from private donations. The Governor has committed funding through the end of next year.**

**Mr. Saviano said he is extremely impressed with this program and the job they are doing here; Ms. Powers even accompanies students to their court hearings at the high school; she provides a feeling of security. He personally thanked them.**

**Mrs. Campbell asked about the curriculum and coordination with DECA. Ms. Hill and Ms. Powers explained the curriculum is put together by MY TURN, who is looking to copyright the program. They are looking to connecting with DECA in the future; DECA could be a logical next step for some MY TURN students. The entrepreneurship program would be used for credit recovery. Mrs. Campbell brought up the idea of a "Shadow" program, done on Groundhog Day.**

**Dr. Mara said Ms. Powers has done a great job and is forward thinking. Students are still under the PBGRs; a major benefit is they**

have a connection. Credit recovery is for students who have fallen significantly behind; if the gap continues to widen students see it as a no win situation and this program, along with our other ramp up programs, offer a way to get back on track. The District will do all we can to fund the program. Ms. Powers said next year's focus will be the 9th to 10th graders. Dr. Mara would very much like to see the program expand into the middle school.

Mr. O'Dell asked if businesses in the community might become funding sources as the word gets out. Ms. Hill said this is what is hoped. Mr. O'Dell also asked the relationship with guidance and teachers in terms of course selection. Ms. Powers said she sits in on any guidance meetings with her students, including IEP meetings, and she checks out what are going to be the barrier classes and works with guidance.

Mrs. Campbell suggested the program come up with a graduation pin for these students to wear.

Mr. Estrella thanked Ms. Powers and Ms. Hill for their time and efforts.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:35 PM**

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mrs. McBride motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:35 PM for discussion of an emergency budget issue. Mr. Brule seconded. The

**motion passed unanimously. Mr. Estrella announced that no action will be taken and the balance of the agenda will be finished upon resumption of the meeting; there will be no voting items.**

#### **RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 8:09 PM**

**The Committee discussed a budget situation. Mr. Estrella said the remaining agenda items will be addressed at the business meeting on April 28.**

**Mr. Silva reminded the Committee of the new Superintendent's evaluation procedures and the Continuous Improvement Plan. Mrs. McBride and Mr. Estrella will meet with the Superintendent over the next few weeks to set a schedule.**

**Mrs. McBride wished to mention the wonderful gesture of Chief Gordon of the Warren Police Department with providing emergency communication lines for the Bristol schools. Mr. Estrella said the Committee will acknowledge this at the next School Committee meeting.**

**Mr. Estrella will also place on the next agenda for discussion and acceptance, the resolutions of East Greenwich and Portsmouth.**

**Mrs. Lynch commented that the Middle School did a great job with Fifth Grade Orientation; she is hoping that in the future 5th Grade**

**Orientation and Kindergarten Orientation are not scheduled on the same evening. Dr. Mara acknowledged that this scheduling conflict was realized too late and will not happen again.**

**Mr. Estrella encouraged the Committee to attend as many of the Senior Week activities as possible. He asked all adults to remind the Seniors of the importance of good behavior so graduation privileges do not have to be revoked.**

**Mrs. McBride apologized to the Seniors that she will be unable to attend graduation for the first time, because her grandson is graduating the same day.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT – 8:18 PM**

**There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. O'Dell, motioned to adjourn at 8:18 PM. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Paul Silva, Secretary**

/c